

**SOAR 8 Region Business Assembly**  
**March 13 – 15, 2026**  
**Notes from Piedmont IG Rep – Terry Davis**

**Friday, March 13**

**7:00 pm –**

Convention attendees join the Business Assembly for Welcome Skit.  
Presentation and Discussion Panel  
Announcements  
Recess

**Saturday, March 14**

**8:30 am – Assembly Reconvenes**

OA Readings  
Introduction of Center Mic & Timer  
Credentials Report – 34 voting representatives present in person and on Zoom.  
Adoption of Agenda  
Introduction of Parliamentarian & Short Parliamentary Lesson  
Adoption of Standing Rules  
Approve Consent Agenda (if applicable)  
Approve minutes from Second 2025 Assembly (by consent)  
7<sup>th</sup> Tradition

**Board Reports (5 minutes for report and 5 minutes for questions)**

***Julie S. (Chair) –***

The theme for this past year was “The Power of We.” It has appeared on documents for presentations and workshops on the SOAR 8 website. “Our Solution for Life” is next year’s theme. We are encouraging folks to step up to volunteer and to mentor others.

***Lonna (Vice Chair) –***

Sept 25 – 27: Little Rock, AK is the location of our next Region 8 Assembly and Convention. In 2027, we are talking with Atlanta for March and Middle Tennessee for September. Both to be confirmed. It’s never too early to think about hosting an assembly. The hosting manual is online. All assemblies are hybrid.

***JC (Secretary) –***

“Useful Information for New Board Members and Committee Chairs” is a document that codifies our practices. OA WSO is a few million dollars under what they expected. ACH deductions help keep funds going to our service bodies. SOAR 8 email list – add your name and contact information. When emailing your committee chair, use only the group/committee email addresses. We currently have 50 intergroups in Region 8; eight have closed within the last three years. We need Green Dot mentors.

***Sherry (Treasurer) –***

We currently have \$32,726.72 in our checking account; \$44,020 in our savings account. Some IGs have donated up to \$7,000. Please remind your groups to send their 10% contributions. Our average balance during the pandemic was higher because we had money coming in, but no expenses. We had a budget line error: more money went out than should have. We are okay now, but we had to make cuts. We took away money from funded committee chairs. We are trying to practice “mindful spending” today. We decided to work with Quicken vs. Quick Books going forward. We will mentor the next treasurer.

***Questions:*** 1. The budget for the last assembly is on the Region 8 website. 2. Where were the cutbacks? Travel expenses to do Twelfth Step Within; guest speakers travel; donations to WSO; Intergroup support; sending people to this Business Assembly. We’ve had over \$10,000 in special contributions. We are spending less on interpretation costs.

***Laurie (Trustee Liaison to Region 8) –***

It’s not too late to register for WSO. Region 8 is only sending 16% of its delegates to WSO. This year will be in person. Next year (2027) will be virtual only. To serve as a delegate, you need one year of abstinence and two years of service above the meeting level. Calling for stories for the new secular reader: June 1 deadline. WSO website is being redesigned. Lots of podcasts (on service, for example) will be featured. Vendor will be offering digital literature in multiple languages. WSO will be electing new Trustees. Early May is when vacancies will be announced. You can be appointed for 1 year. If you have five years of abstinence and had attended at least 2 WSO business conferences, you are qualified to serve as a Trustee. You may be assigned to a Region or serve on the Executive Committee.

***Questions:*** 1. Trustee vs. Delegate – Trustees serve on the Board. There are a total of 15. Delegates come to the Conference to represent intergroups or service bodies (about 200 people). 2. There is a Trustee for each region. Laurie is our voice to the Board. 3. Sandy Z (WSO office) – can be contacted for more information. You need to be an authorized delegate from your service body or IG to vote.

***Nancy (PIPO Presentation) –***

In the past, we have used billboards, shopping cards, and PSAs for public information. These options do not offer good tracking methods. This time, we hired an organization – Over the Top Marketing – to put a streaming promotions campaign in place for us in

Jacksonville and St. John’s County. These promotions were delivered to computers, Smart TVs, tablets, and phones. Promotion window was June 18 – July 16, 2025. We paid \$1,000 for a 30-second video; \$250 for a stop ad. Ads were targeted to persons 35 to 50 years old and 60 to 75 years old. Ads pop up when viewers are doing research for weight loss or shots on their devices or watching TV. Nancy shared a PowerPoint presentation that provided detailed statistics on how many views the videos and stop ad received and the number of households reached. Terry asked whether there was something on the Region 8 or WSO website that asked visitors “how they found out about OA” to further track interest back to the streaming promotions.

### **Motions – Bylaws and P&P**

**Motion 1** – Amend Region 8 Policy & Procedure Manual: Move to remove duty of administration of seed money requests to PIPO so that IGOR may have said duty: Moved to Consent Agenda.

**Motion 2** – Amend Region 8 Policy & Procedure Manual: Motion to amend P&P to add financial policies and procedures regarding the administration of seed money requests. Moved to Consent Agenda.

**Motion 3** – Amend Region 8 Policy & Procedure Manual: Insert in item IX Financial Policies, the Item E to include: “Funds provided to new meetings are expected to buy literature or secure meeting space to help get the meeting started.”  
Motion passed.

### **New Business**

1. **Nominations for Board Members** (to be voted on in September in Little Rock, AR)
  - a. Vice Chair – Michele D.
  - b. Secretary – Quinn C.
  - c. Committee Chairs – No new chairs
  
2. **Committee Reports**
  - a. Ways & Means – Georgette. Georgette presented “Tool Die” item for sale to raise funds. Can be purchased directly from SOAR 8.
  
  - b. By-laws – Debbie. Reviewed committee chair term expirations dates. SOAR 8 is not in compliance with its by-laws. Script “How to Make a Motion” is going to be recorded in multiple languages to make it easier for non-English reps to participate. Plans to distribution newsletter in a more timely fashion.

- c. IGOR (Intergroup Outreach Rep) – Cari. Audio for service positions above the group level. Sending onboarding email to help new IG chairs. Holding IGOR workshops. Similar to a pamphlet titled “Where do I Start?” (to guide persons through their first 12 days in OA), Intergroups might want to develop a program along these lines to help new IG reps. Discussion about developing a new IG chair mentoring program.
- d. Twelfth Step Within – Tina. Mission of the Committee is “Membership Retention, Relapse Prevention.” Encouraging Intergroups to send out an email on the 12<sup>th</sup> of each month (“12 on the Twelfth”) to provide stories and messages of recovery.
- e. PIPO (Public Information, Public Outreach) – Andrea. Goal is to send letters and emails to higher education staff, faith leaders, EAP Administrators, Health Professionals. In English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Creole. To insurance companies, we hope to encourage them to suggest OA to persons seeking bariatric procedures. There are PIPO ideas on the Region 8 website.
- f. Technology – Claudia. Justin joined the group. They are producing a “Tale of Two Techies” newsletter.
- g. International – Stewart. The goal is to facilitate communication for non-English speaking members. Issues with interpretation still exist. Meetings take place on WhatsApp. 27 people attend, but that is only a handful. We need to ask, “Do you still have an interest in this committee? How can we address your needs?” The packet for this business assembly never got translated.

### **3. Good of the Region Information**

- a. April 10 – 12, 2026 – Spring Retreat on Spiritual Tools, Smoky Mountain area, TN. oanashville.org.
- b. April 18, 2026 – “Annual Trip to the Florida Keys” (Miami/Dade Co. OA-sponsored). oamiami.org.
- c. Late April/Early May – “Living in the Now – For Today Only,” OA Brazil-sponsored event. English-speaking OAers are encouraged to attend! Even with the language barrier, you can still understand people.
- d. Sept 23 – 25, 2026: SOAR 8 Assembly and Convention in Little Rock, AR.

- e. October – Gulf Coast FL Intergroup Retreat, St. Petersburg/Sarasota area. [oagulfcoast.org](http://oagulfcoast.org).
- f. Nov 5 – 7, 2026: “Destination Deland” Central Florida OA Retreat, The Sanborn Center. [oacfi.org](http://oacfi.org).
- g. Nov 6 – 8, 2026: OA Retreat at St. Simon’s Island, GA.
- h. Other regional OA events info can be found on the SOAR 8 website. Send your flyers to Lonna for posting. Remember: we can only use non-copyright images in our promotions. *(Terry’s note: per guidance from Roberta G., I did not mention the “Mountain of Miracles retreat in September in Black Mountain, as we want to open it to OAers in our North Carolina region first).*
- i. Speaking to the Media – A reminder that we can speak to the media about our own personal OA recovery; we don’t speak for OA as a whole.

*Note: Committee meetings occurred right before the lunch break. Terry joined the Twelfth Step Within committee, which meets the first Sunday of each month at 8:05 pm Eastern.*